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Ag 84 Pro
Cap 4

More Feed Is Needed In 1952

BECAUSE: (1) Feed means meat,
milk, eggs, and
other livestock
products.

(2) Our feed reserves
are declining.

For 2 years now we have been using more feed grain than we have produced. Reserve stocks are fast disappearing. Feed supplies must be increased if the output of livestock products—which are almost one-half of our total food—is to be maintained at high levels.

United States Department of Agriculture

CORN

CORN is our principal feed grain. Corn accounts for about 25 percent of all the feed consumed, including pasture and roughage, and about 75 percent of all the feed grains. It is important in milk and beef production, and indispensable in producing pork, chicken, eggs.

Production Decline. Production of feed grains as a whole has declined since 1948, but corn is down most. American farmers grew less than 3 billion bushels in 1951. Use of corn has been increasing and is expected to total nearly 3.3 billion bushels this year—well above 1951 production. Reserve supplies this coming fall will be the smallest in 4 years. More corn production is needed in 1952.

Production Goal. Merely to match needs with production—without adding much to reserves—a corn crop of nearly 3.4 billion bushels will be needed in 1952. **That's 115 bushels for every 100 bushels produced in 1951.**

Production Can Be Increased. There are two ways—both important—to increase corn production: **(1) Plant bigger acreage; (2) get higher yields per acre.**

Bigger Acreage. For 1952 the goal is 89 million planted acres—over 5 million more than in 1951—or 106 acres for every 100 planted in 1951.

Farmers planted 83.9 million acres of corn in 1951. That was about 1 million acres more than in 1950, but *less* than in 1949.

Farmers in every State are being asked to increase corn acreage in 1952. About 3 million acres of the increase must come in the Corn Belt, and 2 million in other areas. But in planning these increases, farmers are being asked, also, to keep their good hay and pasture land and to maintain good crop rotations.

Farmers are asked, however, to increase their corn acreage by planting on (1) available idle

land, (2) weedy, unproductive hay and pasture land otherwise suited to corn, and (3) acreage shifted from less productive crops. In considering the planting of alternative feed grains, farmers are asked to give preference to the grain that will yield the most feed per acre. In most of the Corn Belt, corn will outyield oats—in feeding value—by more than 2 to 1.

Planting of 89 million acres of corn in 1952 CAN BE ACHIEVED without undue disturbance of good crop-rotation systems and without interference with the pasture-and hay-improvement programs.

Higher Yields. In addition to increased acreage, much emphasis must be put on increasing the yields per acre in 1952. Weather will have much to do with this, but we can't count on weather as a substitute for good production practices.

Getting increased yields means (1) more widespread use of soil-improvement practices, (2) increased and proper use of fertilizer, (3) increased and proper use of adapted hybrid seed corn, and (4) more widespread use of all other good production and harvesting practices.

Every farmer is urged to consult local agricultural authorities for the best methods to increase acre yields on his own farm.

OTHER FEED GRAINS

Oats, Barley, and Sorghum Grain. Production of all of these declined in 1951, with the result that reserves will be smaller this year than they were last year.

The goal for OATS is 41.6 million acres—about the same as the acreage seeded in 1951. The goal is held at this level because of the urgent need for additional corn acreage. With average yields, this should turn out about 1.3 billion bushels of oats, or about the same as production in 1951. Oats should be used as a nurse crop to

establish legumes or grass-legume mixtures for soil improvement and feed.

The goal for BARLEY is 12.9 million acres, compared with 10.8 million planted in 1951—one-fifth more. The goal acreage at average yields would produce about 290 million bushels, compared with 255 million produced in 1951. Barley acreage should be increased above the goal wherever possible.

The goal for SORGHUM GRAIN is 10 million acres, compared with 8.5 million harvested for grain in 1951—about one-sixth more. With average yields, the goal acreage would produce about 205 million bushels of grain, compared with 159 million produced in 1951. The goal should be considered the minimum—to be exceeded to the fullest extent possible.

HAY AND PASTURE

Hay, pasture, and other roughage account for over 50 percent of all livestock feed consumed in the United States. In total, pasture produces about twice as much feed as hay does.

HAY PRODUCTION must be maintained at high levels to keep pace with increased numbers of cattle.

The GOAL for tame hay is 60 million acres—the same as harvested in 1951. This acreage should produce about 93 million tons. Wild hay should provide an additional 12 or 13 million tons. Production at these levels will meet requirements in 1952–53 and maintain adequate carry over stocks.

Hay and Pasture Improvement. Effort should be made to increase yields and quality of all tame hay and pasture. Practices to get increased yields include use of improved varieties of grasses and legumes, use of adequate amounts of fertilizer, and improved cultural and harvesting methods.

Other Roughage. Because of short feed sup-

plies, farmers should extend their supply of feed grains and hay by making larger use of straw, fodder, crop residues, and other normally wasted roughages.

Consult local agricultural authorities for methods of increasing yields and quality of hay and pasture.

PRICE SUPPORT

PRICE SUPPORTS for your 1952 crops of feed grains have been established at levels designed for your protection in expanding this year's production. Price support for corn will be 90 percent of parity as of October 1, 1952. National average dollars-and-cents supports for other feed grains have been announced as follows: Oats, 78 cents a bushel; barley, \$1.22 a bushel; and grain sorghums, \$2.38 a hundred-weight.

CONSERVATION

Make every bushel do a bigger job by reducing waste. Loss from rats and insects is tremendous. Poor storage and poor feeding practices add other millions of bushels to the annual loss. Add to the feed supply by cutting this waste.

